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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Joji YOSHIMURA, et al
SERIAL NO. : 09/719,721
FILED : June 15, 1999
FOR : GAS SEPARATOR FOR FUEL CELLS
GROUP ART UNIT : 1745
EXAMINER : S. TSANG-FOSTER

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

S I R:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on March 25, 2003, the Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I, including claims 1-9, 11, 16, 19 and 20 for further prosecution in this Application.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement, in particular as to the division between Groups I and II. The Applicant respectfully submits that Groups I and II have been improperly divided. The Examiner alleges that a special technical feature defined as "a gas separator having rugged shapes that are formed in both faces of the separator to define a flow path of a fluid passing through the inside of a fuel cell" does not define over the prior art, specifically US 6,291,094 to Yoshimura. However, because the Applicant amended the claims of both Group I and Group II to include the special technical feature of "a cooling fluid for cooling down the inside of the fuel cells is introduced as a fluid


passing through the flow path defined by at least one of the rugged shapes" to define over Yoshimura, the Applicant respectfully submits that this should be considered a unifying special technical feature common to both Groups I and II.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: APR 12 16, 2003 By: 
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